(b) and (c) On the basis of enquiry report action against the concerned officers is being taken.

Setting up of labour appellate tribunals

2988. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to constitute Labour Appellate Tribunals to decide appeals emanating from the Awards of Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals; and

(b) if not, what steps are being taken to clear off the huge appeals pending in the High Courts on Awards from Labour Courts|Industrial Tribunals?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Trade Unions and the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1988 introduced in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th May, 1988 provides *inter alia* for the transfer of such appeals to the Industrial Relations Commissions proposed to be set up under Article 323B of the Constitution. These Commissions are proposed to be entrusted with the functions of adjudication of Industrial Disputes (other than those assigned to Labour Courts) and hearing of appeals against the orders of the Labour Courts. The Bill is before the Parliament.

Application for exemption from ULC act pending in Tamil Nadu

2989. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications in Tamil Nadu pending for exemption from the provisions of Urban Land Ceiling Act as on 31st December, 1987;

(b) the number of applications cleared so far;

(c) the number of applications pending for three, five and ten years respectively; and

(d) what steps are being taken to clear the pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Closure of industrial units

2990. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 228 industrial units were lying closed during 1987 affecting 93,251 workers;

(b) if so, what were the reasons for the closure of these units; and

(c) what corrective measures have been taken by Government to rehabilitate the sick units?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) and (b) According to the latest available information 297 units affecting 1,03,831 workers were closed during 1987 due to financial stringency, shortage of raw material, break down of machinery, and adverse market Conditions.

(c) Government have taken a series of measures to combat industrial sickness. These include the setting up of a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction which oversees and implements rehabilitation packages for sick industries. In addition to this, reliefs and concessional finances are available to sick units